



## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION 153 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr D A Worth (DA-FS); is attached for your consideration.

  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE:

30/4/10

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

  
MS B P SONJICA, MP  
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE:

2010/05/10

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 153

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 23 APRIL 2010  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 9)

**153. Mr D A Worth (DA-FS) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

- (1) Whether she is taking any action to prevent sewerage in the Matjhabeng Municipality in the Free State from being diverted into the surrounding rivers and pans (details furnished); if not, why not; if so, what action;
- (2) whether this sewerage is a health hazard; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether any measures are being taken to prevent any outbreaks of diseases; if not, why not; if so, what measures?

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**REPLY:**

- (1) Yes, on 27 May 2008 my Department issued a Section 53 (1) directive for the Matjhabeng Local Municipality (LM) to provide an action plan to address all waste water non-compliances within its area of jurisdiction. The municipality complied and submitted the requested action plan to my Department, but highlighted lack of funding as a barrier to the implementation of the proposed actions. In June 2009, my Department provided R26 million to the municipality to address the key issues identified within the waste water treatment works. The amounts were allocated as follows:
  - R8 million for the Odendaalsrus Waste Water Treatment Works
  - R8 million for the Witpan Waster Water Treatment Works
  - R2 million for the Theronia Pump Station
  - R8 million Hani Park Sewage Pump Station
- (2) No, the sewage does not pose a direct health hazard within the area. The sewage that gets discharged into the Losdoorn Spruit at the demolished Odendaalsrus Waste Water Treatment Works filters through the old maturation ponds and a large reed bed that helps to naturally and partially treat the raw sewage. The majority of the sewage that is supposed to go to Witpan is re-directed to the Theronia Waste Water Treatment Works and only a small volume enters the Witpan, which due to the large volume of water will naturally dilute and will be further cured by sunlight.
- (3) My Department is currently supporting Matjhabeng LM in terms of the refurbishment of waste water infrastructure, and also working closely with the Municipal Health Services in the prevention of the outbreaks. In addition, my Department continues to monitor drinking water quality within the area on a monthly basis as part of its regulatory obligations. Quarterly audit samples are also taken by my Department to verify the results of the monthly samples and also to determine if any future drinking water quality health hazards are likely to occur.

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